

MONTANA AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Chairman Murphy and members of the committee, my name is Susan Kohler and I am the CEO of Missoula Aging Services; the Area Agency on Aging for Missoula and Ravalli Counties. I want to begin by thanking Senator Lewis for developing a revenue mechanism to restore funding for our older Montanans that has already been cut and will provide an ongoing funding source. I am speaking today on behalf of the 10 Montana Area Agencies on Aging in the state of Montana. Our role is to promote independence, dignity and health of older adults and those that care for them through advocacy, education, services and volunteer opportunities. Our primary focus is to provide supportive services to our older Montanans so that they can avoid premature and more costly institutional care like a nursing home.

Some of the major services provided by the 10 Area Agencies on Aging and through County Councils on Aging, our primary contractors, are transportation, Meals on Wheels, personal care, homemaking, case management, respite care for caregivers, senior center support and Education on Medicare and Medicaid along with long term care services, and certified long term care ombudsmen that ensure resident rights in nursing homes. Many Area Agencies also sponsor National and Community Service Senior Corps programs that include RSVP, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion Programs.

We are here because older Montanans need us especially in light of the Silver Tsunami our state is facing. By the year 2025 Montana will be 5th per capita in our older population. In fact, 58% of the current legislators are over the age of 55 with the average age being 55. Therefore, most of you will be at least 70 years old by the year 2025 and I gather most of you have every intention of living at home. With the fastest growing segment of our population being 85 and older, the need for in-home support that is largely non-medical will be critical. These are services that the Area Agencies on Aging and the Medicaid Waiver programs

currently provide and are less expensive than the average cost of nursing home in our state which is **\$60,000 annually**.

I am providing a folder that includes a handout showing the number of clients we served in 2010, which was **53,000**, and their risk factors. Most of our clients live alone, live in poverty and are at risk of nursing home placement.

I have also included maps that reflect the percent of the aging population over 60 in each county for the year 2015 and for 2025. In 2015, the population age 60 and older will reach 20% or higher in most counties. By the year 2025, nearly three quarters of Montana's counties' aging population will be over 30% with 12 counties exceeding 40%.

I have also included a map that outlines the counties covered by each of the 10 Area Agencies on Aging.

As you can see this is not the time to reduce funding for our older Montanans and this funding has the ability to become a consistent source. There will be additional testimony from folks who have traveled to share their stories about the benefits of our services. Again, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your time.

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010 AREA AGENCY ON AGING STATISTICS OF SERVICES

 State ID: MT Fiscal Year: 2010

1. Unduplicated Count of Persons Served For Registered Services Supported by the OAA Title III	31,502
2. Estimated Unduplicated Count of Persons Served For Unregistered Services Supported by the OAA Title III	35,012
3. Total Estimated Unduplicated Count of Persons Served Through Services Supported by the OAA Title III	53,401

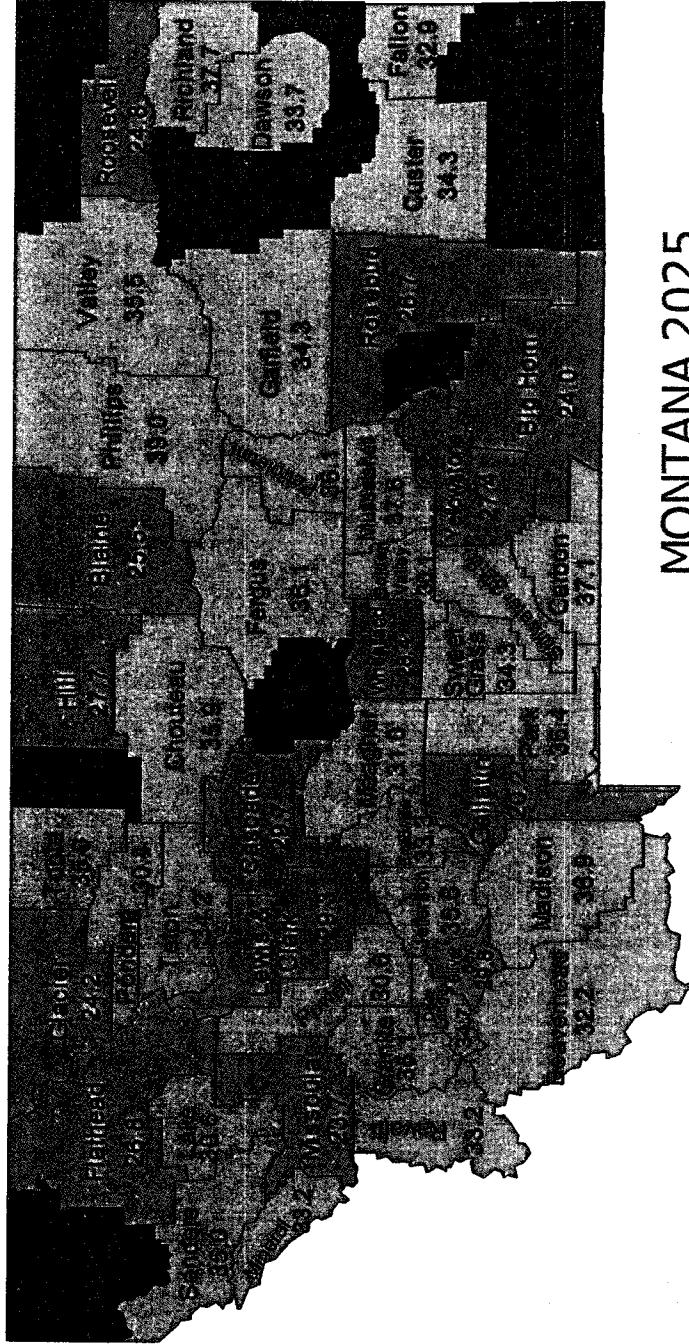
Based on the data entered into MASTS, the states system for collecting data required by the Federal Government, the following is an overview by Area Agency of the percentage of clients with an identified risk factor who served during FFY 2010. Risk factors are areas that have been statistically proven to increase an elder's chances being institutionalized. The major risk factors that AoA focuses on are:

- Living alone
- Living in poverty
- Minority status
- Clients that have 3 or more identified Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) that they need assistance with
- Clients that have 3 or more identified Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) that they need assistance with
- Clients who are at nutritional risk based on a score of over 5 on the NSI screening tool
- Clients living in rural areas (as defined by the US Census)

% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE RISK FACTORS BY AAA/STATEWIDE

AAA	Living alone	Female alone	Males Alone	Minority	Living in poverty	At Risk ADL>2	At Risk IADL>2	HDM NSI at risk	Cong NSI at risk	Rural
1	55.0%	60.1%	44.7%	11.7%	35.2%	8.2%	31.6%	46.8%	12.8%	58.1%
2	51.1%	56.3%	40.7%	24.4%	44.0%	5.3%	21.9%	45.2%	2.2%	53.7%
3	45.3%	52.0%	33.9%	11.2%	34.9%	7.1%	30.7%	25.0%	6.3%	82.8%
4	58.9%	65.8%	43.0%	1.2%	27.0%	14.2%	69.1%	62.4%	14.5%	26.8%
5	70.7%	76.0%	60.7%	1.4%	28.9%	6.4%	58.7%	57.2%	11.1%	15.9%
6	56.5%	61.8%	46.5%	13.4%	42.6%	12.7%	50.8%	45.2%	7.9%	65.9%
8	61.3%	67.9%	48.6%	8.7%	21.3%	10.0%	30.3%	68.0%	26.7%	23.4%
9	65.5%	74.8%	45.2%	2.1%	25.4%	3.0%	63.7%	91.0%	10.9%	13.4%
10	59.6%	66.3%	46.9%	31.4%	48.2%	30.4%	68.1%	0.0%	0.0%	29.9%
11	61.5%	66.0%	54.6%	2.7%	38.2%	8.4%	70.6%	69.1%	24.1%	43.9%
State ave	57.0%	62.7%	46.0%	10.9%	35.2%	8.5%	43.3%	59.0%	11.5%	46.8%

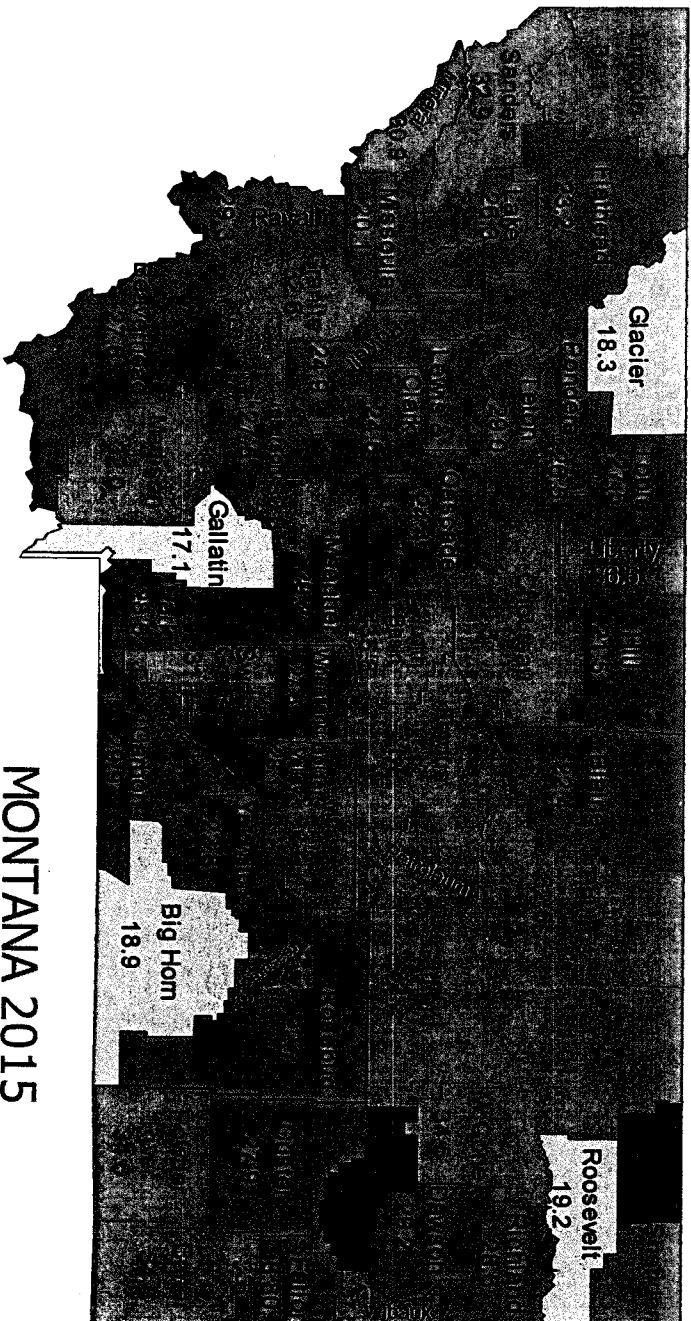
2025 MT 60+ population



MONTANA 2025

PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION 60+			
60+ population = 342,295	○ 0.0 to 9.9	● 20.0 to 29.9 (14)	● 40.0 to 49.9 (11)
Range = 20.2% to 47.7%	○ 10.0 to 19.9	● 30.0 to 39.9 (31)	
St average = 28.4%			
Median = 34.4%			

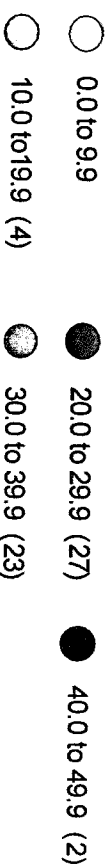
2015 MT 60+ population



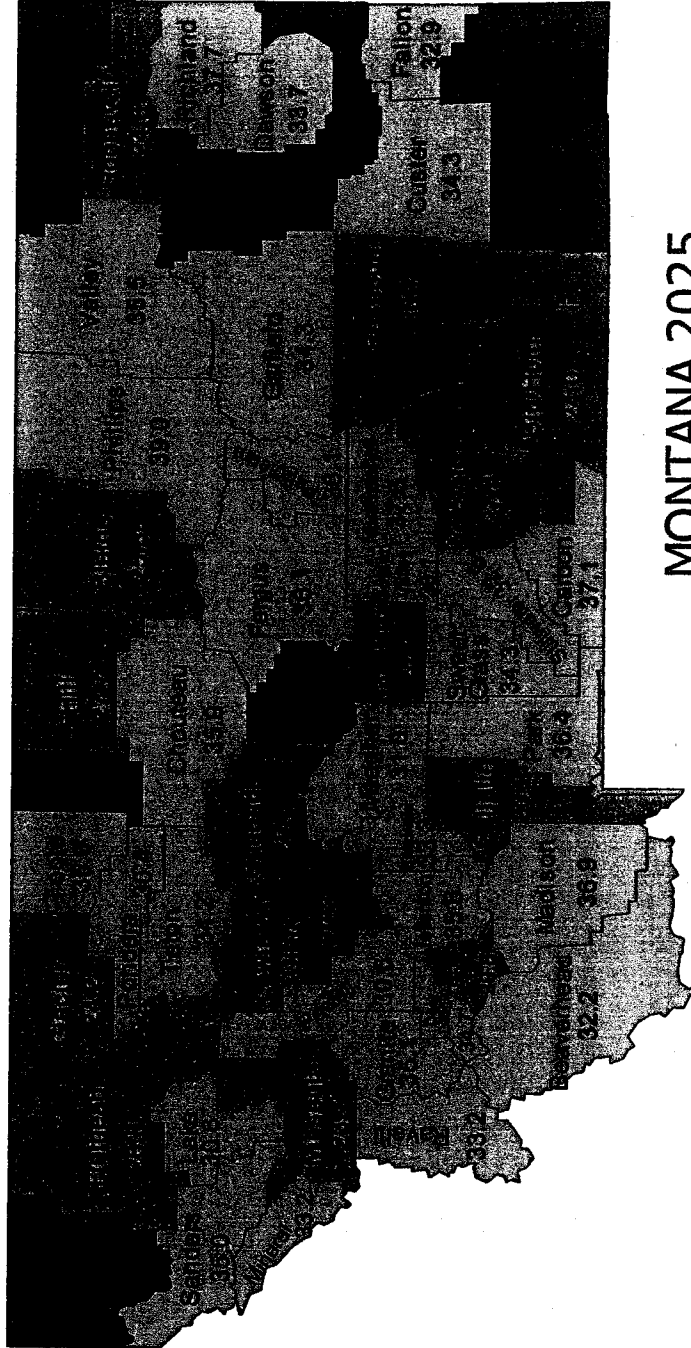
MONTANA 2015

60+ population = 256,661
 Range = 17.1% to 41.4%
 St average = 24.1%
 Median = 29.3%

PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION 60+



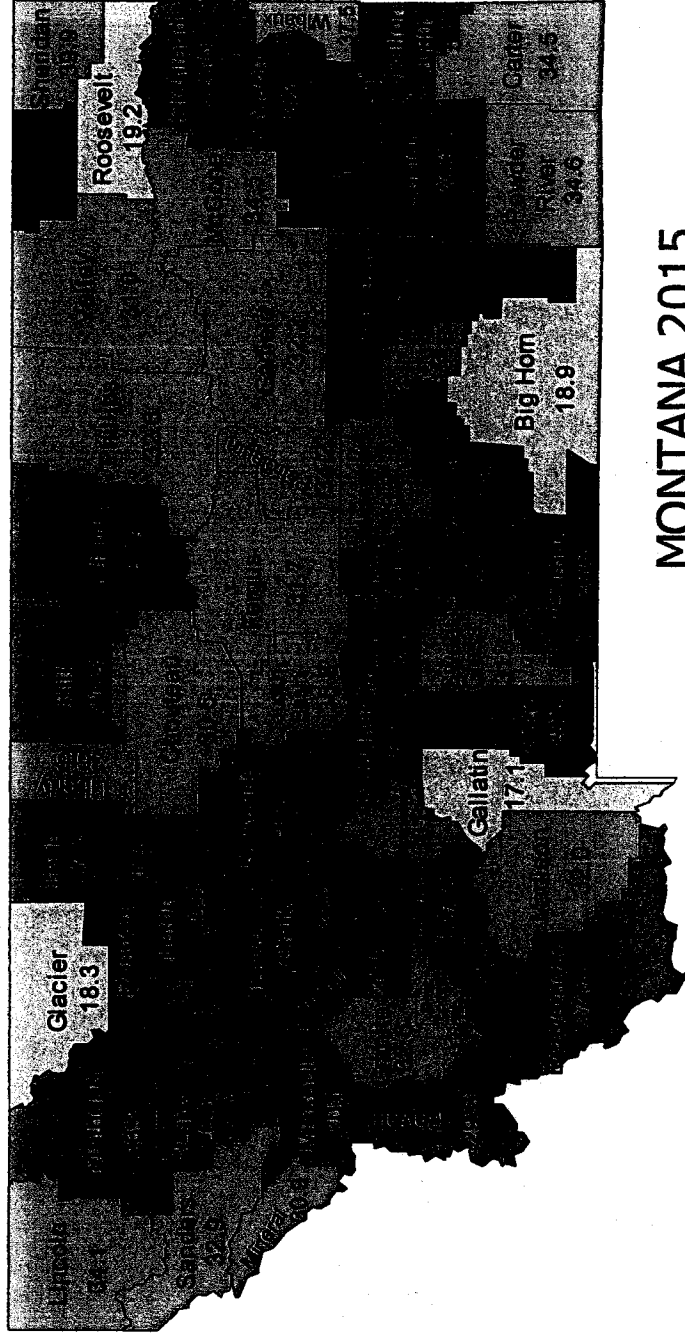
2025 MT 60+ population



MONTANA 2025

PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION 60+			
60+ population = 342,295	0.0 to 9.9	20.0 to 29.9 (14)	40.0 to 49.9 (11)
Range = 20.2% to 47.7%	10.0 to 19.9	30.0 to 39.9 (31)	
St average = 28.4%			
Median = 34.4%			

2015 MT 60+ population



MONTANA 2015

PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION 60+			
○	0.0 to 9.9	●	20.0 to 29.9 (27)
○	10.0 to 19.9 (4)	●	30.0 to 39.9 (23)
○	40.0 to 49.9 (2)		
60+ population = 256,661			
Range = 17.1% to 41.4%			
St average = 24.1%			
Median = 29.3%			